

Merry Christmas

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Focus God conceived a miracle in Mary, she carried the miracle, and it came to completion. In the same way, God wants to conceive a miracle in us, give us grace to carry it, and bring it to completion.

Fun What are your favorite Christmas traditions? What is your favorite Christmas memory?

Review Key Scriptures: Luke 1:31–38

1. Mary conceived Jesus by the Holy Spirit; God wants to conceive a miracle in you.

God wanted to conceive a miracle, Jesus, in Mary. Jesus was born of a virgin—this is a miracle! In the same way, God wants to birth Jesus into our lives. He wants Jesus to come into our lives, grow in us, and then have us deliver Him to the world. The word *angel* means “messenger.” Often when you go to church and hear a message or talk with a friend, God will speak to your heart. When you hear a word from God, have faith to believe it. In the same way the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary, God wants to conceive a miracle in your life.

2. The miracle God puts into your heart must be carried for a season.

Mary received Jesus after the message from the angel, but she had to carry the baby for nine months before delivery. We also have to carry the miracle God puts into our heart. From the time the word is spoken until the delivery, there is a time of believing and trusting God. It’s not always easy. Mary went to her cousin Elizabeth’s house when she found out she was pregnant. It is important to get around other people who have faith. They were able to encourage each other

during the time the miracle was growing. It is during this time that you have to have faith and trust God will do what He said He would do.

3. God wants to complete the miracle He put in you.

Not many people believed Mary and her story. She didn't have all roses; she had the thorns with the flowers. But she held onto the Word of God. The delivery of the miracle doesn't always happen like we think. Mary had to ride on a donkey for several days. Then she had to go to a stable to have her baby and lay Him in a feeding trough. You have to be open to God completing the miracle even if it is different than you thought. Let this be a year that you deliver Jesus to a lost and dying world.

Group Dynamics Idea At the beginning of the year we have a new series called *REAL*. If there are people in your group who would be good leaders, encourage them to facilitate one of the series groups during this new series. We want to see as many people as possible join a group for the new year.

Discuss

1. Read Luke 1:31–38. How would you have responded if you were Mary?
2. Mary's response to God was, "Let it be to me according to Your Word." How do we often respond to God when He speaks to us? What are some of the excuses we use? How can we have a response to God that is more like Mary's?
3. The word *angel* means "messenger." What are the ways God speaks to you?
4. Has God put a dream in your heart? Is there a miracle you are believing God for? If so, share. If not, how can you intentionally spend time with God so He can put His dream into your heart?
5. Mary went to be with Elizabeth after she found out she was pregnant. Why is it important to get around other miracle carriers when God puts a miracle in us?
6. Sometimes the completion of the dream, or the miracle, doesn't happen the way we think. Has God ever told you something and it happened differently than you thought?

7. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message? If you haven't given your life fully to Jesus, take time to do it now.

Take Home As we conclude, remember the following:

- God wants to conceive a miracle in us.
- We have to carry the miracle.
- God will complete the miracle in you, even if it is different than you think.

Prayer Heavenly Father, thank You for conceiving Jesus in Mary and giving Him as a gift to us. In the same way, we ask You to conceive a miracle in us. Please give us the grace to carry it, and deliver it. We want to deliver Jesus to a lost and hurting world. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip

As a new leader, there are always ministry tasks to be done. However, during this season, it is important to take a break. It is during times of rest and enjoying friends and family that God refreshes us. Be sure to rest well and enjoy Christmastime so you will be fresh when the new semester begins.